



RRB News

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board

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RRB Issuing Statements of Service

Each year, the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board prepares a "Certificate of Service Months and Compensation" (Form BA-6) for every railroad employee who received creditable railroad compensation in the previous calendar year. The forms will be mailed to employees by the Board during the first half of June. While the Board has made every effort to compile and keep current a file of the addresses of all active railroad employees, employees for whom compensation was reported in 2001, but who have not received a Form BA-6 by late June, or need a replacement, should contact the nearest Board field office.

Form BA-6 provides employees with a record of their railroad retirement service and compensation. While the form has no cash value, the information shown is used to determine whether an employee qualifies for benefits and the amount of those benefits.

It is important that employees review their Form BA-6 to see whether their own records of service months and creditable compensation agree with the figures shown on the form. In checking the 2001 compensation total, employees should be aware that only annual earnings up to \$80,400 were creditable for railroad retirement purposes in that year, and that \$80,400 is the maximum amount shown on the form. To assist employees in reviewing their service credits, the form also shows service credited on a month-by-month basis for 2000, 1999 and 1998, when the creditable compensation maximums were \$76,200, \$72,600 and \$68,400, respectively. In addition, the form identifies the rail employers reporting the employee's 2001 service and compensation.

Besides the months of service reported by rail employers, Form BA-6 shows the number of any additional service months deemed by the Board. Deemed service months may be credited under certain conditions for an employee who did not work in all 12 months of the year, but had creditable tier II earnings exceeding monthly prorations of the creditable tier II earnings maximum for the year. However, the total of reported and deemed service months may never exceed 12 in a calendar year; and no service months, reported or deemed, can be credited after retirement, severance, resignation, discharge, or death.

(More)

Starting this year, Form BA-6 also shows the number of months of verified military service creditable as service under the Railroad Retirement Act, if the service was previously reported to the Board. Employees are encouraged to submit proofs of age and/or military service in advance of their actual retirement. Filing these proofs with the Board in advance will streamline the benefit application process and prevent payment delays.

For employees who received separation or severance payments, the form, in the section designated "Taxable Amount," shows the amounts of any separation allowance or severance payments that were subject to railroad retirement tier II taxes. This information is shown on the form because a lump sum, approximating part or all of the tier II taxes deducted from such payments made after 1984 which did not provide additional tier II credits, may be payable by the Board upon retirement to qualified employees or to survivors if the employee dies before retirement. The amount of an allowance included in an employee's regular compensation is shown under "Compensation Amount."

The Form BA-6 also shows, in the section designated "Employee Contributions," the cumulative amount of tier II railroad retirement payroll taxes paid by the employee over and above tier I social security equivalent payroll taxes. While the Board does not collect or maintain payroll tax information, the Board computes this amount from its compensation records in order to advise retired employees of their payroll tax contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

An employee who receives Form BA-6 with an incorrect name, address, date of birth or social security number can have the information corrected by contacting the nearest Board field office. If there is a name difference, an employee should be aware that the form may not show his or her full surname if the surname exceeds 10 letters, "Junior" or "Senior" was used with the surname, or the employee first worked for a railroad in 2001.

For most employees, the address and phone number of the Board office serving their area are provided on the form. Employees can also locate the nearest field office by visiting the Board's Web site at www.rrb.gov. In addition, a toll-free automated Help Line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 1-800-808-0772. Employees can use the Help Line to request a detailed breakdown of their creditable railroad service and compensation, as well as to find the address and telephone number of the Board office serving their area.

Any other discrepancies in Form BA-6 should be reported promptly in writing to: Protest Unit-ESTC, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. The employee must include his or her social security number in the letter. The Form BA-6 also explains what other documentation and information should be provided. The law limits to four years the period during which corrections can be made.

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(BA-6 next page)



U.S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

C. T. Thomas, V. M. Speakman, Jr., J. F. Kever
Members

JJ JONES
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CENTRAL CITY, IL 60000-0000

CERTIFIED
2001 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
MONTHS AND COMPENSATION
SERVICE AND COMPENSATION REPORTED
FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2001

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	BIRTH DATE	SEX
XXX-XX-XXXX	01-70	M

SERVICE AND COMPENSATION ON RECORD FOR REVIEW PERIOD

YEAR	CREDITABLE COMPENSATION	SEPARATION ALLOWANCE/ SEVERANCE PAYMENT		SERVICE MONTHS PROFILE*												TOTAL
		TAXABLE AMOUNT	COMPENSATION AMOUNT	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
2001	52,700.00			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
2000	50,250.00			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
1999	48,100.00			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
1998	45,500.00			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12

* 1 = A reported month; 0 = A month not reported; D = A "deemed" month (See Back of Form).

CAREER TOTAL RETIREMENT RECORD

CREDITABLE COMPENSATION	SEPARATION ALLOWANCE/ SEVERANCE PAYMENT		SERVICE MONTHS				EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS
	TAXABLE AMOUNT	COMPENSATION AMOUNT	REPORTED	DEEMED	MILITARY SERVICE	TOTAL	
442,550.00			127	* *	* *	127	21,684.95

YOUR 2001 REPORTING EMPLOYER(S)

The service and compensation shown on this form for 2001 were gathered from a report(s) received from the following employer(s): **MIDWEST RAILROAD COMPANY**

RRB OFFICE SERVING YOUR AREA

122 MAIN STREET
CENTRAL CITY, IL 60000

PHONE (123) 456-7890

Always notify the Railroad Retirement Board if your address changes during the year.